

Tomales Bay State Park: Preliminary Parkwide Planning Goals and a Menu of Area Possibilities for Resource Enhancement Activities and Park Facilities

The planning team recognizes the visual and environmental sensitivities of the Tomales Bay area and State Parks intends to preserve these unique values. Because of these sensitivity constraints, we envision a plan that is *focused on preserving what works well now* in the park and recommending only modest adjustments to park management policies and activities and relatively minor changes to recreational and administrative facilities.

Based on analysis of information gathered in our resource inventory, the planning team has identified the following list of general parkwide planning goals and *possible* enhancements for specific park areas. We present the following planning goals and possibilities to the public to stimulate your ideas and input and to present a general picture of what general policies, resource enhancement activities, and facility development *could* be included in the final plan.

Preliminary Parkwide Goals:

- Improve protection and management of the park's aesthetic resources and the area's unique sense of place
- Improve the quality of the park's stream, estuary, and bay waters, reduce erosion, and heal erosion scars.
- Cooperate with state, county, and local agencies to improve the health of Tomales Bay.
- Enhance and preserve terrestrial, estuarine, intertidal, and marine habitats
- Restore native plant communities and natural vegetation dynamics and manage exotic plant problems
- Restore and protect sensitive plant and animal populations in the park and work with others to restore and protect local and regional biocorridors
- Improve protection and management of the park's archeological and historic resources
- Enhance the park's interpretive and educational programs and facilities
- Improve visitor safety regarding hazards such as wildfire, landslides, and earthquakes and enhance interagency fire response coordination
- Enhance the park's relationships with neighboring lands, land-uses, landowners, jurisdictions, services, and facilities.
- Enhance interagency coordination of regional resource and recreation planning, development, and management

The planning team has identified the following possibilities for resource enhancement activities and new recreational access and opportunities in the park. We emphasize that these ideas are *planning possibilities* and are *not actual proposals* for new resource management activities or park facilities. When the plan is complete, management or development recommendations will be presented as broad "Goals and Guidelines." Future funded resource enhancement or facility development based on the final plan's

goals and guidelines will be subject at that future time to more detailed research, planning, and public review through the CEQA process. Most of the following new facility development possibilities are related to sites in the park that are already developed to minimize visual and environmental impacts.

Heart's Desire Area Possibilities:

- Continue to manage Heart's Desire Beach as the only "drive-up" beach access in the park. Indian, Pebble, and Shell Beaches would continue to be undeveloped "walk-in" beaches with natural estuarine ecosystems.
- Continue and enhance the current effective multi-use management of Indian Beach that blends the mutually-enhancing goals of estuary and archeological site preservation with low-impact beach recreation and overnight school group "Environmental Living Programs" (which teach the natural harmony of culture and nature through environmental awareness and care).
- Restore the natural outlet of the estuary that was lost when the parking lot was built at Heart's Desire Beach in the 1960s. The creek could be realigned away from the archeological site and alder trees could be re-established to screen the parking lot from the beach. Fully-accessible picnic facilities could be redesigned to blend with the natural landscape under the shade of the alder trees. There would be no loss of parking capacity. Re-stripe southeastern corner of parking lot to accommodate cars with cartop watercraft to unload. Create sand "drag" path to beach parallel to existing paved path. Formalize kayak launching area with sign at southern end of swim area.
- Improve regeneration of the aging stand of Bishop pines at the Jepson Memorial Grove.
- Adapt the former "Bike-and-Hike" campground to a group campground and develop a 15-30 site drive-in campground in the park's current upper maintenance storage lot.
- Redesign the upper picnic area to better accommodate group picnics and special events and to improve esthetics and views.
- Redesign the entrance/fee-collection area for more efficient circulation and operation.
- Enhance trail connection with the trails of Point Reyes National Seashore.

Inverness Area Possibilities:

- Continue managing the three Inverness parcels as natural watershed, viewshed, and wildlife habitat.
- Enhance trail connection with the trails of Point Reyes National Seashore.
- At North Dream Farm Rd. Property, remove derelict buildings and trailers and develop a park maintenance facility and/or park staff residences.

Millerton/Tomasini Point Area Possibilities:

- At current Millerton Point parking lot, improve restroom and picnic facilities.
- At Millerton Uplands, provide a small picnic and "bayview" trailhead area and nature trail with screened parking, pit toilet, and educational panel.
- At Tomasini Point Trailhead, improve parking and trailhead and provide toilet facilities. Consider extension of trail to form a loop and to provide closer views of the wetland for birdwatching.
- Promote more natural tidal exchange in the Tomasini Point estuary.

Marconi Cove Possibilities:

- Provide day-use area with parking, restroom, educational panels, picnic facilities, and launching area for car-top and trailered boats, and sailboards.
- Provide a campground for bicyclists and boaters.

Cypress Grove: Leave in natural condition as is.